

# **Assistance Dog Providers in the U.S.**

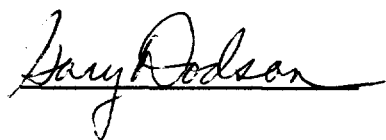
**A complete guide to finding a guide, hearing, or service dog.  
Seizure alert and therapy dog providers also included.**

**An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)**

**by**

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Dodson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Ball State University**

**Muncie, Indiana**

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## This Book is Dedicated To:

Rosie

Though you are now gone, never will I forget your beautiful face, for I thought you were the most beautiful dog in the world. And the way you looked up at me, with love shining in your eyes, like I was your reason for happiness. You were such a wonderful dog. A better companion I couldn't have had. As I sit here remembering the times we shared walking in the woods when you chased rabbits and loved me for I gave you a moment of freedom. You could have run for days. I only regret that I could not let you. One day I let you have my softball and still I have to smile, remembering you prancing around like a queen with your head held high. Then you turned and looked at me, forgetting your ball for an instant, and dropped it. As you remembered it, you pounced on it with delight. I will cherish the memories that I have. I thank God that you were mine, even though the time was so short. I would rather hurt without you than never have had the chance to love you at all. Though I miss you, I know that someday I will see you again, when you will lick my smiling face. Until then, my beautiful Rosie, chase those rabbits and wait for me, knowing I will love you even more.

-Carla Stiverson

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# **PART ONE**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## Introduction

There are millions of mobility, visually, and hearing impaired people in the U.S. Whether they know it or not most of these people are eligible to receive an assistance dog from one of many provider organizations-- an opportunity that could provide significant lifestyle enhancements. These dogs not only provide physical assistance but emotional support as well. However, most of these organizations are relatively new or obscure and people simply do not know they exist. We have come to the conclusion that a person wanting as assistance dog may not have access to the information that he or she needs.

We envision the book to function primarily as a service to any disabled person whose life might benefit from the acquisition of an assistance dog. But we also recognize that there are others who could benefit greatly from such information- namely those who might wish to volunteer or raise a puppy for an organization. Anyone who is interested in the assistance dog industry may find this book helpful.

Most people know what an assistance dog is. Almost everyone has seen some vision-impaired person being guided by a dog or some child in a wheelchair with a Labrador Retriever by his side. What people typically do not know, unless they own an assistance dog, is the extent to which a dog can change a person's life. We are hoping that this project will bring about a greater awareness of the benefits of assistance dogs. It is our feeling that the more people know about this topic, the better.

There are generally three types of assistance dogs. **Guide dogs** are those that help the visually impaired. They are literally the "guide" for their owners, helping them cross streets and maneuvering them through the many obstacles they would encounter in this world. **Hearing dogs** are those that assist the hearing impaired, alerting them of the telephone, alarm clock, doorbell, etc. They are crucial when it comes to smoke alarms and can mean the difference between life and death. **Service dogs** are those that provide assistance for the mobility impaired. These dogs open doors, turn on light switches, pick up objects, pull wheelchairs, and many other things. The Americans with Disabilities Act gives guide dogs, hearing dogs, and service dogs legal access to all places of public accommodation, allowing them to go anywhere their owners go. The Federal Fair Housing Act protects individuals who have a disability, including those who own service dogs.

Though they may not be technically recognized as assistance dogs, we felt it was important to include information on two related types of trained dogs. **Seizure alert dogs** are those that either sense a seizure coming on or react once the seizure has begun and respond appropriately. Seizure alert dog training is a new concept and is still being researched. Though we include these dogs in a separate section, some say that seizure alert dogs fall under the category of service dogs. **Therapy dogs**, sometimes termed "companion" or "social" dogs, are available for those who need the emotional support and social interaction that a dog can provide. Sometimes therapy dogs are placed with individuals who are too young to receive a certified assistance dog, or they may be found in children's homes or nursing homes. Therapy dogs are not granted the legal access of assistance dogs, though they may be permitted in those facilities that utilize them.

Each type of dog listed above can perform many basic tasks as well as provide the owner with a "best friend". In doing so, these wonderful dogs open up a whole new world to their owners, granting them a greater independence that helps to overcome their disabilities.

## How to Use This Directory

This directory provides a listing of assistance dog training programs and some of the services they provide. If you are looking for an assistance dog- a guide dog, for example, we suggest that you read the preliminary topics in Part I, such as "Benefits of Getting an Assistance Dog," and then turn to the guide dog section. Providers are organized alphabetically by state and are also indicated on maps of the United States for easy geographic comparison. If you are looking for a seizure or social dog, we suggest that you read the sections in Part I and then turn to the appropriate section in Part III.

If you have multiple disabilities, there is a column in the **Index of Providers** on page 110, identifying the providers that will consider applicants with additional disabilities. Some providers provide more than one type of assistance dog. See the Index of Providers for assistance in looking at the overall picture.

We encourage those desiring an assistance dog or related type of dog to find the program that is best for them by contacting several providing organizations. There is variation in many aspects, such as training methods, selection of dogs, breeds used, selection of applicants, cost, training locations, waiting period, and geographical placement of dogs. Basic data are included here, but the facilities will have to be contacted for additional information. We recommend that a person consider all aspects and choose the program that is best for him or her. Choosing a providing organization is a very important decision. Keep in mind that not all assistance dog/handler teams are successful. There are always those that just do not seem to work out, though there are thousands of teams that do.

For those who are interested in getting involved with the industry, we have included sections on **volunteer activities**, **puppy raising**, and **making your own dog a therapy dog**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note:** The purpose of this directory is to inform individuals about available provider organizations. Although we attempt to compile a comprehensive list, there may be other programs that are not included here. We do not endorse or recommend any of the individuals or organizations listed herein. We have no control over the services provided and have no means of judging or verifying the competence of the individuals or organizations listed herein.

\*\*\*\*\*

## How to Treat an Assistance Dog Team

An assistance dog is a working dog and whenever it is in harness, backpack or vest, or wearing other identifying articles, it is hard at work assisting its partner. Just as you would never interrupt a person who was concentrating on some task, you should never interrupt an assistance dog, no matter how beautiful the dog and how great the temptation!

Guide dogs can be identified by a harness and U-shaped handle. Service dogs can be identified by either a backpack or a harness. Hearing dogs can be identified by an orange collar and leash and/or vest.

Listed below are some general courtesy tips to follow when you encounter a working assistance dog and its partner. Keep in mind that they should also be applied to related trained dogs, such as seizure alert dogs and therapy/social dogs when they are working.

- \* ALWAYS ask the owner if you may pet the dog or talk to it before doing so.
- \* DO NOT be offended if the owner prefers that you do not pet the dog or talk to it. Bothering the dog could be a distraction to the important job it does. Many disabled owners, however, will allow you to give the dog attention when the situation permits.
- \* NEVER offer the dog food or other things that may distract it.
- \* DO NOT try to help a blind person across the street or up the stairs, etc., without asking, by grabbing his or her elbow. This creates a problem for the dog and prevents it from doing its job.
- \* DO NOT do anything to distract any assistance dog, whether it be guide, service, or hearing.
- \* ALWAYS volunteer help if you think a disabled person is in a situation where help is needed.

You need to understand that many long hours went into this special relationship. Try to gain an appreciation for what an assistance dog can do.



## Benefits of Getting an Assistance Dog

If you obtain an assistance dog you will almost certainly have more physical freedom to live your life the way you choose. If you get a guide dog you may not need to depend a device such as a cane any longer, and you will not need someone to lead you across the street or up stairs. Service dogs may give more freedom by pushing a wheelchair or picking up dropped articles. There are many other ways that an assistance dog can add to your physical freedom. This freedom is not limited to your home, because legally, when they are "on duty", guide, hearing, and service dogs can accompany you anywhere you want to go, including all areas of public accommodation.

There are emotional freedoms as well. Hearing dogs may eliminate fears of not being able to hear smoke alarms or intruders. Some individuals obtain service dogs to help overcome their fear of being out in public. Each type of assistance dog, as well as seizure alert and therapy dogs, can provide more freedom because you will have the emotional support you need. Any assistance dog owner should also feel pride in his or her accomplishments as part of a team.

Though it may not apply in all cases, an assistance dog can be a monetary freedom as well. Even though some providing organizations require you to pay for an assistance dog, you may very well save money in the long run as the dog may eliminate the need for a personal health care provider. If you are happy with your partnership, you are more likely to be healthier as well!

Safety is another important benefit of getting an assistance dog. A guide dog will lead you through many situations that could be very dangerous if you were alone. A hearing dog can alert you to necessary noises and alarms. Any assistance dog, due to his attachment to you, will probably be somewhat protective of you. The majority of assistance dogs are not trained to be aggressive, though usually aggression is not necessary because the mere sight of a dog can deter someone who could potentially do you harm.

Even if you have owned a dog before, obtaining an assistance dog is a big responsibility. Responsibility in itself is very baneful to many individuals. Caring for a dog, who in turn cares for you, can give a person a sense of being needed. In addition, knowing your dog will be waiting to get your care and attention can give you a wonderful reason for wanting to start the day.

Obtaining an assistance dog can benefit your social life. You may find that people are approaching you to ask you about your wonderful companion. This may be more important for children of school age, though assistance dog partners of all ages could find this very rewarding.

Last but not least you will have a faithful companion who will love serving you. The love and devotion given by a dog is one of the main reasons the assistance dog concept works so well. This dog will actually get pleasure out of serving you, and many get very excited when it knows it will shortly be "on duty." In addition to the many important hours of service it will give you, a dog will provide you with many fun times as well. Whether it be playing with your dog or just watching his amusing antics when he is "off duty", you are sure to have many pleasurable experiences.

Though you should not expect an assistance dog to be a miracle worker, obtaining the dog can be one of the most rewarding experiences you could ever have. You and he are part of a team, and success can only be attained through your team effort. By working together you will be opened up to a whole new world of freedom, safety, and love, and you can enjoy it together.

There are many benefits of getting an assistance dog- definitely more than can be listed here. Providing organizations who train the specific type of assistance dog you need will be more capable of discussing them. In addition, people who own assistance dogs are a wonderful resource.

## Dogs in General

Dogs are wonderful and very special animals. They are highly social animals and need close "family " relationships just as much as they need food, shelter, and exercise. Much like people, dogs all have their own personalities. Each dog has its own feelings, own mannerisms, and own special means of communicating with you. Dogs depend on their owners to take care of them. It is crucial that you assume responsibility for your loving companion. In return, your dog will be eager to please and serve you.

This responsibility takes many forms. Dog expenses can add up. A nutritious dry food can potentially cost you more than \$5.00 a week for a large dog. Small dogs do not eat as much. Some veterinarians may give discounts for assistance dogs, but annual vaccinations, heartworm tests, heartworm preventive and flea control products can still add up. You must also be prepared for unexpected accidents and illnesses. Dog treats and toys are additional expenses.

You are responsible for taking the dog outside to eliminate and you must be ready for inside messes due to illness or other reasons. The dog will need a place to sleep, and while some prefer to have the dog sleep in his or her bed, some want the dog to have a nice bed on the floor. It will also need a yard to play in and some form of regular exercise. Playtime is very important to a dog. Regular grooming is a must, and some dogs require more effort than others. This may include a brushing, bath, haircut, or toenail trim.

There are emotional costs as well. You cannot just put the dog in the closet when you feel like it. Love and attention are crucial to the happiness of a dog, so you need to devote yourself to this creature. If your dog isn't happy, you won't be either. After all, doesn't this seem a small price to pay for one who gives you so much in return?

The final cost is a very difficult thing for any person to consider. Though dogs do give total devotion to their owners, they are only granted a short stay on this earth. Large dogs may live for 10 to 12 years, while small breeds tend to live longer. Sometimes a dog must be retired after years of faithful service. Eventually the dog will die or have to be euthanized. Sometimes the last way you can show your dog how much you care is by not letting it suffer.

Though there are many responsibilities, from paying for a veterinary visit to patting your dog on the head, there are many benefits. Not only do you gain the physical assistance you need but you gain a true "best friend" who will think you are the greatest thing in the world. As a team you will be exposed to a whole new world of independence.

## **Which Providing Organization is Right for You?**

While an assistance dog will change your life in many wonderful ways, getting such a dog is a major commitment. Careful planning now will insure that you and your assistance dog will be a happy team for many years to come. Being aware of your options is the first step.

We encourage those desiring an assistance dog to find the best program by contacting several providing organizations. Ask questions and consider all aspects before choosing a program. Do not give up if one provider can not accept you or accommodate your needs, as each provider has different requirements and does things differently. Many of the things for you to consider are included in the following list.

### **Questions that are covered in this book:**

- \* What will an assistance dog from the provider cost you? Is there an application fee?
- \* What breeds are used?
- \* Where does the organization get its dogs?
- \* What is the minimum age of a recipient?
- \* Where does the recipient/dog team get its training? (home vs. facility)
- \* How long does the team training take?
- \* What geographical area does the providing organization serve?
- \* Will the program consider applicants with additional disabilities?
- \* Will they consider training your own dog as an assistance dog?
- \* What is the normal waiting period for a dog?
- \* How many dogs does the provider place each year?
- \* Is the provider a member of Assistance Dogs International or The Council of Dog Guide Schools?

### **Additional things you need to consider:**

- \* What is the history of the organization?
- \* What is the organization's track record? How many assistance dogs have been placed successfully? Obtain the name and address of past recipients and talk to them.
- \* Is the organization familiar with your own state's licensing requirements?
- \* What is the providing organization's official assistance dog certification?

- \* What additional costs might you have? (transportation, lodging, food, travel of trainer, etc.)
- \* How are the dogs evaluated and tested for acceptable temperament and ability?
- \* What factors does the program consider in matching you with a dog?
- \* Does the program take personal requests for dogs?
- \* What qualifications must you meet to be accepted?
- \* What training does the dog go through before being placed?
- \* What training will you and the dog complete together?
- \* Will the team be trained on a one-on-one basis or in a group?
- \* What is the follow-up program like?
- \* Who owns the dog once it is placed?
- \* What happens to dogs that do not complete training?
- \* What happens if the dog has serious health problems after it is placed?
- \* Will the providing organization help you find a home for the dog when it retires?
- \* Is the facility accessible to your physical needs?
- \* What are the trainer's qualifications?
- \* Are the staff members and trainers able to communicate effectively with you?
- \* Will the program allow you to keep other pets in addition to your assistance dog?

## **Assistance Dogs International, Inc. & U.S. Council of Dog Guide Schools**

Assistance Dogs International, Inc. is a non-profit coalition group with members representing various assistance dog training centers and individuals interested in this area of training. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of training, placement, and utilization of assistance dogs, whether they be guide, service, or hearing dogs.

Members of ADI meet annually to share ideas, attend seminars, and conduct business regarding such things as educating the public about assistance dogs and their rights, setting and enforcing minimum standards and guidelines for training these dogs, and improving the utilization and bonding of each team. ADI also publishes a quarterly newsletter for members. ADI has an established grievance procedure for assistance dog owners who have received dogs from members of ADI. Of the United States' thirty-four ADI members in 1995, none were exclusively guide dog providers, although such providers are eligible.

If you are interested in any aspect of the assistance dog field, ADI membership may benefit you, and you can be a part of this fascinating world of dogs and people helping each other. For information and membership guidelines, contact:  
C/O Mike Roche, Freedom Service Dogs, P.O. Box 150217, Lakewood, CO 80215,  
(303) 234-9512.

The U.S. Council of Dog Guide Schools is a similar coalition exclusively for guide dog schools. Ten schools joined together several years ago to form this organization. They meet every four months to discuss new issues such as safety and access and to review new materials and training methods. They share ideas on many aspects of guide dog training. The purpose of this council is to foster better communication among its members. For information, contact: Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, P.O. Box 142, Bloomfield, CT 06002, (203) 243-5200.

## **The Delta Society**

The Delta Society is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the health and well-being of people and animals. It began in 1977 and has created a network of pet owners, volunteers, people in health care, administrators, and scientists who believe a person or community is not healthy without nurturing contact with animals and nature. They are committed to educational and community service programs to make this belief a reality.

The Delta Society trains health professionals in animal-assisted therapy. It also helps prisons, hospitals, and other facilities run effective animal-assisted programs. They train volunteers to become Pet Partners and visit with their pets in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and other facilities. It advocates for the right of assistance dogs to enter public places and the workplace with their owners.

The Delta Society Service Dog Center (SDC) provides information to the many individuals and media inquiring about the location of training centers and how trained service dogs work. The Delta Society uses the term "Service Dog" as this book uses the term "Assistance Dog", which collectively includes guide, hearing, and service dogs. The SDC provides information on the Americans with Disabilities Act and state laws affecting public access and housing for individuals with service dogs. The SDC provides individuals with information and suggestions on what action to take when access is denied and makes referrals to state protection and advocacy agencies that can be of assistance. The SDC also issues a laminated information card with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it affects assistance dogs printed on one side.

Decals for placement on windows of public places saying "Service Dogs Welcome Here" and an SDC exhibit are available. A public service announcement on service dogs is available for television and radio, as well as an ALERT newsletter on service dogs are ways the SDC helps educate people about these dogs specially trained to assist people with disabilities. New advocacy and education tools will be available in 1995.

For information, contact: Delta Society Service Dog Center  
P.O. Box 1080  
Renton, WA 98057-9906  
(800) 869-6898 (Voice/TDD)

## **The Future of Assistance Dogs**

It is our belief that the more people know and understand about assistance dogs, the better. Many disabled individuals do not even know that they can obtain a wonderful canine assistant to help them in their daily lives, let alone know how to obtain one. Hopefully this will change in the future. It is our dream that one day every disabled individual who desires an assistance dog will be able to acquire one that is perfectly suited for his or her needs.

Maybe in the future there will be no disputes over legal access of assistance dogs, and all places of public accommodation will recognize the Americans With Disabilities Act and abide by it. Each day finds an increase in the national acceptance of assistance dogs because there are so many dedicated individuals who fight for this acceptance. Someday that fight may be over.

Each year new assistance dog providers are established in the United States, but as a group they still cannot provide the number of quality assistance dogs needed by disabled individuals. According to many providers, money is the one thing that is holding them back from providing more dogs. Money is hard to come by, whether the organization is non-profit or works for profit. It takes money to get an appropriate dog, train it as an assistance dog, and pay for the food and veterinary bills during this time. A training facility is very expensive to obtain and to maintain. Each organization also provides costly follow-up training as necessary. Even those organizations that train disabled individuals to train their own dogs have to cover costs for the training and possibly a facility. Perhaps someday these providers will not have to struggle financially to provide this wonderful service. Maybe insurance providers will one day cover the costs of assistance dogs. After all, assistance dogs can eliminate the need for health care providers in some cases and can improve the emotional and physical health of their owners.

According to the maps in the individual sections of assistance dogs there are many areas of the United States that do not have nearby provider organizations. Though some providers will train dogs for individuals anywhere in the United States, many are limited to a much smaller geographic location. Hopefully in the future a disabled individual anywhere in the United States will have easy access to the provider organization of his or her choice.

Volunteers are the backbone of many provider organizations. We hope that because of increased awareness of assistance dogs, more individuals will want to become involved in the industry. There are many opportunities for people to become puppy raisers or help out in other ways.

The assistance dog industry has come a long way. Hopefully this wonderful and very important service will continue to advance and provide quality assistance dogs for greater numbers of disabled individuals, putting them one step closer to the freedom that they deserve.



# **PART TWO**

# **ASSISTANCE DOGS**

## Guide Dogs- an Overview

Guide dogs were the first type of assistance dog to have established providing organizations in the United States. In addition, guide dogs are probably the most well known of the assistance dogs. Almost everyone has seen a guide dog at work leading his blind partner safely across the street or up a staircase.

To be eligible for a guide dog a person must be legally blind, not totally blind. Many providing organizations will train for disabilities in addition to blindness, such as hearing loss, loss of limb, or balance problems. If the provider will consider applicants with and accommodate for additional disabilities it will be noted in the **Index of Providers** on page 110.

The main breeds used as guide dogs are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and German Shepherds. Some providers work with Australian Shepherds, Smooth Coated Collies, Dobermans, Boxers, Vislas, and Lab/Golden crosses. The dogs are obtained through a provider's own breeding program or through purchase or donation. The providing organizations carefully select the dogs they feel will make the best guides. All guide dog providers have a puppy raising program where the puppies are loved, well socialized, given basic training, and exposed to a wide range of experiences until the puppy is 14-18 months old.

When the dogs return to the training facility, they undergo four to six months of intense training. In this training they learn to assist their partners by avoiding obstacles, stopping at curbs and steps, locating doorknobs, and working safely in traffic. A guide dog is taught to disobey a command if it sees a potentially dangerous situation. This refusal to obey is known as intelligent disobedience and is crucial to the safety of a team. After this training is completed, the dog is matched with a recipient for team training.

Most organizations require that the recipient travel to their facility for a 24-28 day stay for team training. Some providers do team training in the recipient's home community, where the training may range by provider from 2 1/2 weeks to 4 weeks. The time for retrainees will be less. Each team that is certified is provided with important follow-up care.

Although producing a finished guide dog can cost the providing organization \$25,000 or more, most organizations are non-profit and will provide a dog free of charge to a blind individual. Some providing organizations work for profit, charging for their services.

## Sample Questions on a Guide Dog Application

The questions below will help you find out what may be asked of you. They are not the only questions possible but they do give an idea of what an application may be like. Each provider has a different application.

- \* Name
- \* Home Address
- \* Length of Residence
- \* Work Address
- \* Home & Work Phone
- \* Parent Name and Address
- \* Date of Birth
- \* Social Security Number
- \* Sex
- \* Height
- \* Weight
- \* Marital Status
- \* Name of Spouse
- \* Number of Children & Ages
- \* Number of Dependents
- \* How many people live with you?
- \* Do these people like dogs?
- \* Does anyone object to your receiving a dog? (landlord, employer, or family member)
- \* Do you have any relatives who are blind?
- \* Do you read braille?
- \* What languages do you speak?
- \* What was your occupation before blindness? After?
- \* Do you have plans for future employment?
- \* Do you anticipate a major move or other change of lifestyle within the next year?
- \* What high school did you attend?
- \* What college did you attend and what degree(s) were attained?
- \* What community activities are you involved in?
- \* What are your hobbies?
- \* What type of transportation do you use regularly?
- \* Describe your daily routine travel activity
- \* Are you an independent traveler?
- \* What mobility devices do you use?
- \* Do you know the layout of your own city?
- \* Can you direct a guide to take you where you want to go in your home area?
- \* Where do you live? (city, apartment, dormitory, etc.)
- \* Do you have a backyard?
- \* Do you walk the streets alone?
- \* Are there paved sidewalks on most nearby streets?
- \* What are the traffic conditions like where you live and work?

- \* Will your dog accompany you to school/work?
- \* Do you smoke?
- \* Have you ever been denied guide dog training?
- \* What is the cause of your vision loss?
- \* When was its onset?
- \* What is your visual acuity for each eye?
- \* What is your visual field for each eye?
- \* Describe your general health: diabetes, epilepsy, headaches, hearing, other disabilities, medication
- \* What is your physician's name and address
- \* Do you need a special diet or other attention?
- \* What is your medical insurance company and policy?
- \* Who is an emergency contact?
- \* Have you had orientation and mobility training within the last 5 years?
- \* If so, give name of agency, address, dates.
- \* Have you received any other rehabilitation services within the last 5 years?
- \* If so, give name of agency, address, dates.
- \* Have you attended any other guide dog schools?
- \* Have you ever had pets?
- \* What pets do you have now?
- \* Have you had any previous association with dogs?
- \* Why do you want a guide dog?
- \* Can you afford transportation to and from school and food/veterinary costs of dog?
- \* Do you receive a State or Veteran's pension?
- \* If you are a Veteran, which war, branch of service, serial number, name and number of your unit, Veteran's Administration Rehabilitation Centers attended
- \* What is your total average monthly income?

#### IN ADDITION:

- \* 3-6 personal references
- \* Copy of certification of legal blindness
- \* Ophthalmologist report
- \* Detailed physical examination & medical history
- \* Orientation & mobility evaluation
- \* You must authorize your physician, ophthalmologist, orientation and mobility agency, rehabilitation agency, and past guide dog schools to release medical information to the guide dog school you are applying to
- \* Some providers may require:
  - Dog ownership agreement
  - In-home interview
  - Recent photo
  - Video of yourself

## Key to the Listings of Providers

\*\*\*\*\*

### 1 ARIZONA

#### 2 Eye Dog Foundation of Arizona (1938)<sup>3</sup>

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 Map no. 1   | 10 Training at facility for 24 days<br>(2 weeks for retrainees) |
| 5 8252 South 15th Avenue<br>Phoenix, AZ 85041   | 11 Cost: free   |
| 6 (602) 276-0051  | 12 Minimum age: 18  |
| 7 Contact: David Hagemann   | 13 Waiting period: varies                                       |
| 8 Administrative Office:<br>512 N. Larchmont Blvd.<br>Los Angeles, CA 90004<br>(213) 468-8856 | 14 Train Internationally  |
| 9 Use German Shepherds primarily from<br>their own breeding program                           |   |

\*\*\*\*\*

- 1 State of provider. All entries are organized alphabetically by state.
- 2 Name of provider
- 3 Year the program was founded
- 4 The assigned map number on the appropriate United States map
- 5 Address
- 6 Phone number. FAX number will be on the following line where applicable.
- 7 Contact person for someone desiring an assistance dog
- 8 Any additional information about the providing organization that may be important but is not listed in the the following text or in the Index of Providers. For example: administrative office addresses, if the facility will certify dogs they have not trained, additional services they provide, if they train individuals to train their own assistance dogs, etc.
- 9 Breeds of dogs used in the program and where they are obtained
- 10 The site and length of recipient/dog team training
- 11 The cost of the dog and/or services. If there is an application fee it is also noted. Costs may not include transportation, lodging, meals, supplies, and other things. Contact the providing organization for any additional expenses.
- 12 Minimum age accepted for a recipient
- 13 The average time period from the time a person submits an application until the person receives an assistance dog.
- 14 This is the geographic area that the program serves.

**\* NOTE:** If a provider trains more than one type of assistance dog, then the breeds used, training length, cost, and minimum age of the recipient may differ between types. Each provider that trains more than one type will be listed in each of the pertinent sections with the information pertaining to that type. For example, a provider that trains hearing and service dogs will be in the hearing dog section with specific hearing dog information and in the service dog section with specific service dog information.

## **Guide Dog Providers**

### **ARIZONA**

#### **Eye Dog Foundation of Arizona (1938)**

Map no. 1  
8252 South 15th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85041  
(602) 276-0051  
Contact: David Hagemann  
Administrative Office:  
512 N. Larchmont Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
(213) 468-8856  
Use German Shepherds primarily from  
their own breeding program

Training at facility for 24 days  
(2 weeks for retrainees)  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: varies  
Train Internationally

### **CALIFORNIA**

#### **Guide Dogs For the Blind, Inc. (1942)**

Map no. 2  
P.O. Box 151200  
San Rafael, CA 94915-1200  
(415) 499-4000  
Contact: Sue Sullivan- Social Services  
Director  
Use Labs, Goldens, and German Shepherds  
from their own breeding program  
\*Established in 1994, there is a branch in Oregon  
that will train individuals who have had  
previous dogs from Guide Dogs for the Blind.  
Address: Guide Dogs for the Blind  
202 NE Kelly Avenue  
Gresham, OR 97030-7544  
(503) 666-5158

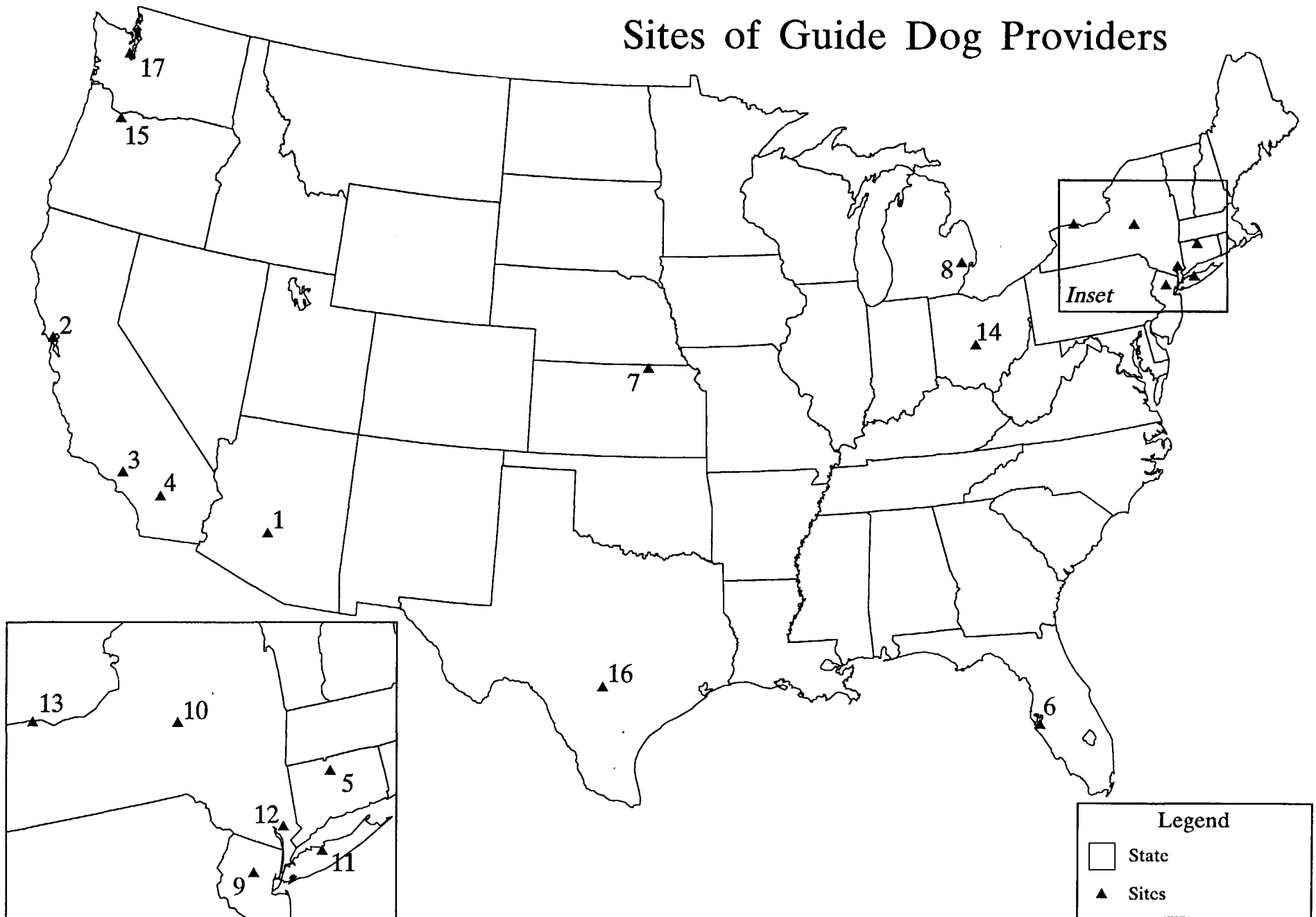
Training at facility for 28 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 6-12 months  
Train for: United States and Canada

#### **Guide Dogs of America (1948)**

Map no. 3  
13445 Glenoaks Boulevard  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 362-5834  
(818) 362-6870 FAX  
Contact: Ms. Andi Krusoe-Admissions  
Use primarily Labs, Goldens, and German  
Shepherds from their own breeding program

Training at facility for 28 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 3-6 months or more  
Train for: United States

# Sites of Guide Dog Providers



## **Guide Dogs of the Desert (1972)**

Map no. 4  
P.O. Box 1692  
Palm Springs, CA 92263  
(619) 329-6257  
(619) 329-2127 FAX  
Contact: Doug Hunter- Director of Training  
Use Labs, Goldens, and some German  
Shepherds from their own breeding  
program and from breeder donations

Training at facility for 28 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 16 1/2  
Waiting period: 1 year  
Train Internationally

## **CONNECTICUT**

### **Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc. (1981)**

Map no. 5  
P.O. Box 142  
Bloomfield, CT 06002  
(203) 243-5200  
(203) 243-7215 FAX  
Contact: Eileen McGrew  
Use German Shepherds from their own  
breeding program

Training in recipient's community for  
3 weeks  
Cost: \$150  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 6 months - 2 years  
Train for New England and New York  
City, Albany, and Long Island

## **FLORIDA**

### **Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. (1982)**

Map no. 6  
4210 77th Street East  
Palmetto, FL 34221  
(813) 729-5665  
(813) 729-6646 FAX  
Contact: Kimberly Marlow-Brown  
Use Labs, Goldens, German Shepherds,  
Australian Shepherds, Smooth Coated  
Collies, & Lab/Golden crosses from a  
selective breeding program

Training at facility for 26 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 17  
Waiting period: 6 months  
Train for: Southeastern U.S.

## **KANSAS**

### **Kansas Specialty Dog Service, Inc. (1990)**

Map no. 7  
124 W. 7th  
P.O. Box 216  
Washington, KS 66968  
(913) 325-2256  
(913) 325-2258 FAX  
Contact: William Acree, Exec. Director  
Use Goldens, Labs, and a few German  
Shepherds from their own breeding program

Training at facility for 24 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: will consider children  
with parental support  
Waiting period: 12-18 months  
Train for: United States



**MICHIGAN**  
**Leader Dogs for the Blind (1939)**

Map no. 8  
P.O. Box 5000  
1039 S. Rochester Road  
Rochester, MI 48307  
(810) 651-9011  
(810) 651-5812 FAX  
Contact: Ron Haneline- Director of  
Admissions  
Use Labs, Goldens, German Shepherds,  
and others from their own breeding program  
and from public donations

Training at facility for 25 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: 2-5 months  
Train Internationally

**NEW JERSEY**  
**The Seeing Eye, Inc. (1929)**

Map no. 9  
P.O. Box 375  
Morristown, NJ 07963-0375  
(800) 539-4425  
Use Labs, German Shepherds, Goldens,  
and others primarily from their own  
breeding program

Training at facility for 27 days  
Cost: \$150  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 4-8 months  
Train for: United States and Canada

**NEW YORK**  
**Freedom Guide Dogs for the Blind (1992)**

Map no. 10  
1210 Hardscrabble Road  
Cassville, NY 13318  
(315) 822-5132  
Contact: Eric Loori  
Use Labs and Smooth Coated Collies from  
their own breeding program and donations

Training in recipient's community  
for 3 weeks  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 17  
Waiting period: 6-18 months  
Train for: New York

**Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, Inc. (1946)**

Map no. 11  
371 East Jericho Turnpike  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
(800) 548-4337  
Contact: Emily Biegel- Director of Program  
Services  
Use Labs and Goldens from their own  
breeding program

Training at facility for 25 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 3-4 months  
Train Internationally

### **Guiding Eyes for the Blind, Inc. (1954)**

Map no. 12  
611 Granite Springs Road  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
(800) 942-0149 or  
(914) 245-4024  
(914) 245-1609 FAX  
Contact: Jonathan Schrauer- Director of  
Admissions  
Use Labs, German Shepherds, and Goldens  
primarily from their own breeding program

Training at facility for 26 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: 3-6 months  
Train for: United States

### **Upstate Guide Dog Association, Inc. (1992)**

Map no. 13  
P.O. Box 165  
Hamlin, NY 14464  
(716) 964-8815  
Contact: Jeff Buttermann  
Primarily use Labs, Smooth Coated  
Collies, & Australian Shepherds from  
breeder donations

Training in recipient's home for 2 1/2  
weeks  
Cost: \$250  
Minimum age: out of high school  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: Western New York

## **OHIO**

### **Pilot Dogs, Inc. (1950)**

Map no. 14  
625 West Town Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 221-6367  
Use Labs, German Shepherds, Dobermans,  
Boxers, Vislas & Goldens from their  
own breeding program and donations

Training at facility for 4 weeks  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: none fixed  
Waiting period: 2-4 months  
Train Internationally

## **OREGON**

### **Northwest Guiding Eyes, Inc. (1992)**

Map no. 15  
P.O. Box 580  
Sandy, OR 97055  
(503) 637-3655  
Contact: Chuck Jordan - Director of Training  
Use Labs, Goldens, and German  
Shepherds from breeders

Training in recipient's community for  
up to 4 weeks (2 weeks for retrainees)  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: completed high school  
Waiting period: 1 year  
Train for: Oregon, Washington, Idaho,  
Montana, and Alaska

## **TEXAS**

### **Guide Dog Foundation of the Southwest**

Map no. 16  
P.O. Box 691582  
San Antonio, TX 78269-1582  
(210) 366-4081  
(210) 366-4082 FAX

\* will have training beginning at the end of 1995

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Kinetic Designs Canine Education (1993)**

Map no. 17  
14321 Anatevka Lane SE  
Olalla, WA 98359  
(206) 857-7943  
(206) 857-2640 FAX  
Contact: Colleen Edwards- Administrator  
Training center:  
5007 Nelson Road SE  
Olalla, WA 98359  
phone and FAX same as above  
Use Labs, German Shepherds, and others  
that qualify. Have their own breeding program.  
Obtain dogs from U.S., Czechoslovakia, and  
Hungary

Training at facility for 100-150 hours  
If recipient cannot travel training may  
done at home  
Cost for Guide Dog without protection  
skills: \$18,710  
Cost for Guide/Signal Dog, Guide/  
Service Dog or Guide Dog with  
protection skills:\$23,710  
Costs include: appl. fee, background  
check, dog, training, boarding, vet  
services, equipment, motel, meals,  
and travel  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 2-6 months if have  
funding  
Train Internationally

## Hearing Dogs- an Overview

Hearing dogs are trained for hearing impaired individuals. They respond to many sounds such as tea kettles, car horns, doorbells, smoke alarms, timers, telephones, alarm clocks, and a baby's cry. A hearing dog can be trained to respond to additional sounds depending on the needs of the recipient. In addition to the safety and peace of mind that a hearing dog may give its owner, it will be a loving companion, providing emotional support as well. Hearing dogs are given legal access rights under the Americans With Disabilities Act and may accompany their owners everywhere they go.

Hearing dogs are usually trained to respond to sounds in one of two ways. The dog may make continuous trips back and forth from its owner to the source of the sound, or it may go to the owner and take him or her directly to the source of the sound. Hearing dogs may be trained to respond to voice, hand signals, or a special device.

Many provider organizations will train for disabilities in addition to hearing loss, such as mobility impairments. If the provider will consider applicants with and accommodate for additional disabilities it will be noted in the **Index of Providers** on page 110.

Though some providers use certain breeds for hearing dogs, many providers will consider using almost any breed or mix. Guide dogs and service dogs need to be large enough and strong enough for their necessary tasks, but a hearing dog does not need to use its body to guide the way or pull a wheelchair for its owner. Therefore the size of a hearing dog is not as crucial. What is crucial is that the dog have the capability to hear and respond to sounds.

Many providing organizations will rescue shelter dogs and train them to be hearing dogs. A potential hearing dog must pass strict health, temperament and aptitude tests. The providers that use specific breeds may use breed rescues or they may obtain their dogs through their own breeding program or from breeders. They may place puppies with puppy raisers for a year or more, where they are loved, socialized, given basic training, and exposed to a wide range of experiences. The dogs then return to the provider's facility for many months of hearing dog training. Some provider organizations do recipient/dog team training in the recipient's home, while others do this training at their own facility. Some provider organizations even train a disabled individual to train his or her own dog.

Though there are many different methods used by providers, their goal is the same. They strive to provide hearing impaired individuals with a suitable dog who will alert them to necessary sounds and be a constant loving companion. Any person desiring a hearing dog should find the provider organization that is best for him or her by considering all of the options that are available.

## Sample Questions on a Hearing Dog Application

The questions below will help you find out what may be asked of you. They are not the only questions possible but they do give an idea of what an application may be like. Each provider has a different application.

- \* Name
- \* Home Address
- \* Length of Residence
- \* Former Address
- \* Work Address
- \* Home and Work Phone
- \* TTY Number
- \* Guardian Name and Address
- \* Date of Birth
- \* Years in School
- \* Years Employed
- \* Job Position/Title
- \* Type of Business
- \* Marital Status
- \* Spouse's Employer
- \* Spouse's Education
- \* Social Security Number
- \* Number of Children and Ages
- \* Number of Dependents
- \* How many people live with you?
- \* Do these people like dogs?
- \* If you are living with hearing people, do you plan to live alone in the future?
- \* Do you have a hearing friend or relative?
- \* Do you use: oral speech, sign language, lip reading?
- \* Do you own or rent?
- \* Where do you live? (house, apartment, dormitory, etc.)
- \* How many floors do you use?
- \* Where do you live? (city, suburbs, country, farm, etc.)
- \* Do you have a fenced yard?
- \* What is your gross monthly income?
- \* What is your handicap?
- \* When did it incur?
- \* How did it incur?
- \* What special equipment do you use?
- \* What is your prognosis?
- \* Describe any limitations that you may have in addition to deafness
- \* What medications do you take?
- \* What recreational activities do you partake in?
- \* Are you getting any special training for your handicap?

- \* Are there others in your home who are handicapped?
- \* Do you drive?
- \* Do you go out in public without others?
- \* Would you like to?
- \* What forms of transportation do you use?
- \* Will your dog ride in the front or back of a car?
- \* Will your dog ride on the seat or on the floor?
- \* Will your dog be allowed on furniture?
- \* Do you have time to train your dog daily?
- \* Can you afford food and veterinary costs for your dog?
- \* Can you transport your dog to the vet?
- \* Have you ever owned a dog before?
- \* Do you have any other pets at the present time?
- \* Are you active or quiet?
- \* Do you travel?
- \* Do you spend time inside or outside?
- \* Would you take your dog to work/school?
- \* What hours would you be away from your dog?
- \* Is anyone in your home allergic to animals?
- \* Have you or anyone in your family had any negative experiences involving dogs?
- \* How do you anticipate providing regular daily exercise for your dog?
- \* What do you expect your dog to be able to do?
- \* Why do you want a hearing dog?
- \* Will you use oral speech or hand signals with your dog?
- \* Which sounds do you need your dog to respond to? (baby crying, doorbell, etc)

IN ADDITION:

- \* Physician's name and address
- \* Some providers may require:
  - Interview
  - Recent photo
  - Copy of audiology report
  - References

## **Hearing Dog Providers**

### **ALABAMA**

#### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 1  
Birmingham, AL  
(205) 856-2797 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Vida McCellan-PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **ARIZONA**

#### **Handi-Dogs, Inc. (1973)**

Map no. 2  
P.O. Box 12563  
Tucson, AZ 85732  
(602) 326-3412  
(602) 325-6466  
Contact: Alamo Reaves- Exec. Director  
Handi-dogs trains hearing impaired  
owners how to train their own dogs to  
assist them in their daily lives.  
Use owner's own dog or will help find dog  
for adoption placement

Training at facility for 12 weeks or more  
Cost: \$75 for 12 weeks but offer financial  
assistance  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: N/A  
Train for: primarily southwestern United  
States

#### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 3  
Sierra Vista, AZ  
(602) 378-1926 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Rocky Boatman-PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **CALIFORNIA**

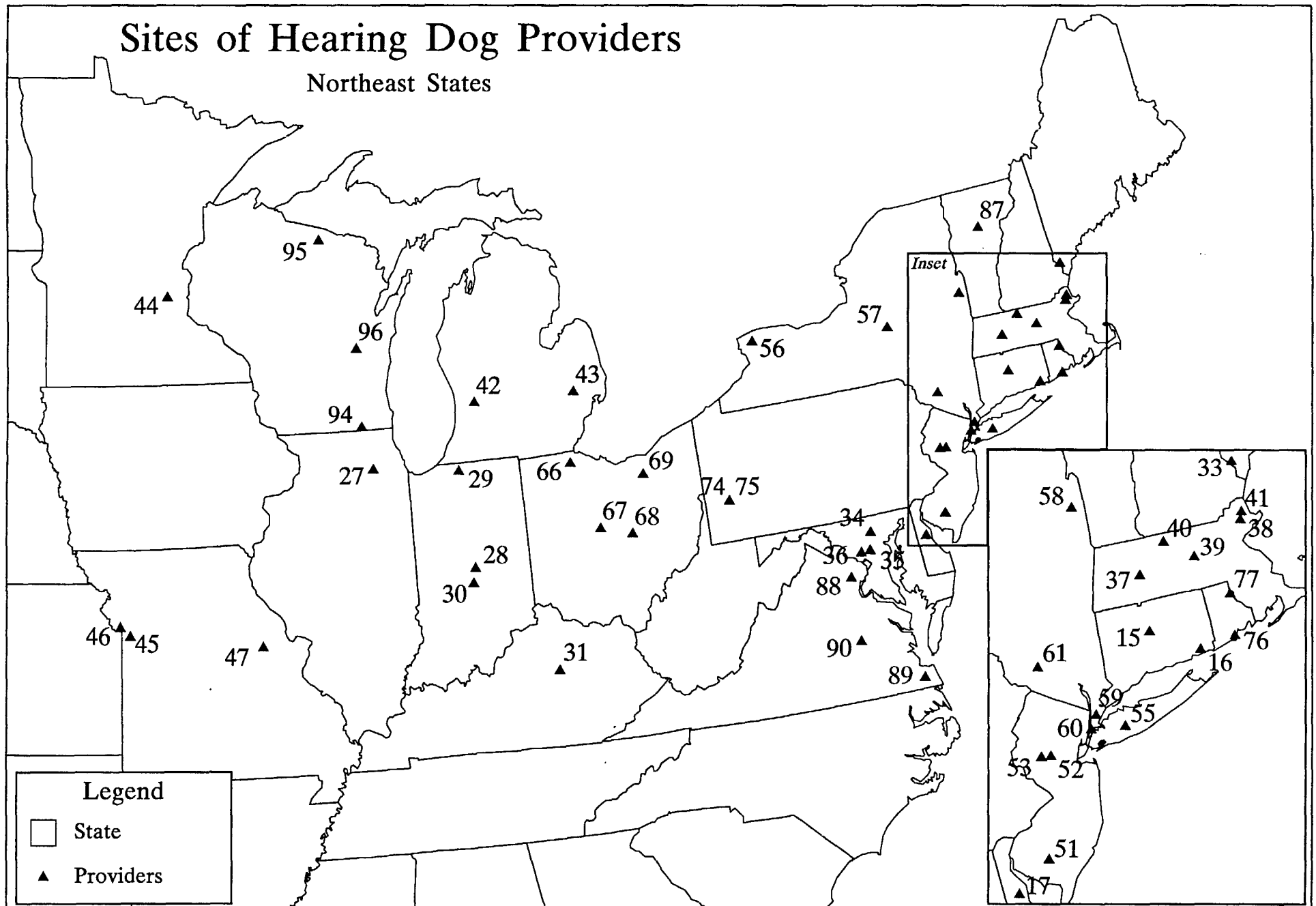
#### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 4  
Southwest Regional Training Center  
6461 El Apajo  
P.O. Box 8247  
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-8247  
(619) 756-1012 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Judith Pierson- Director  
Use Corgis and Border Collies from their  
own breeding program

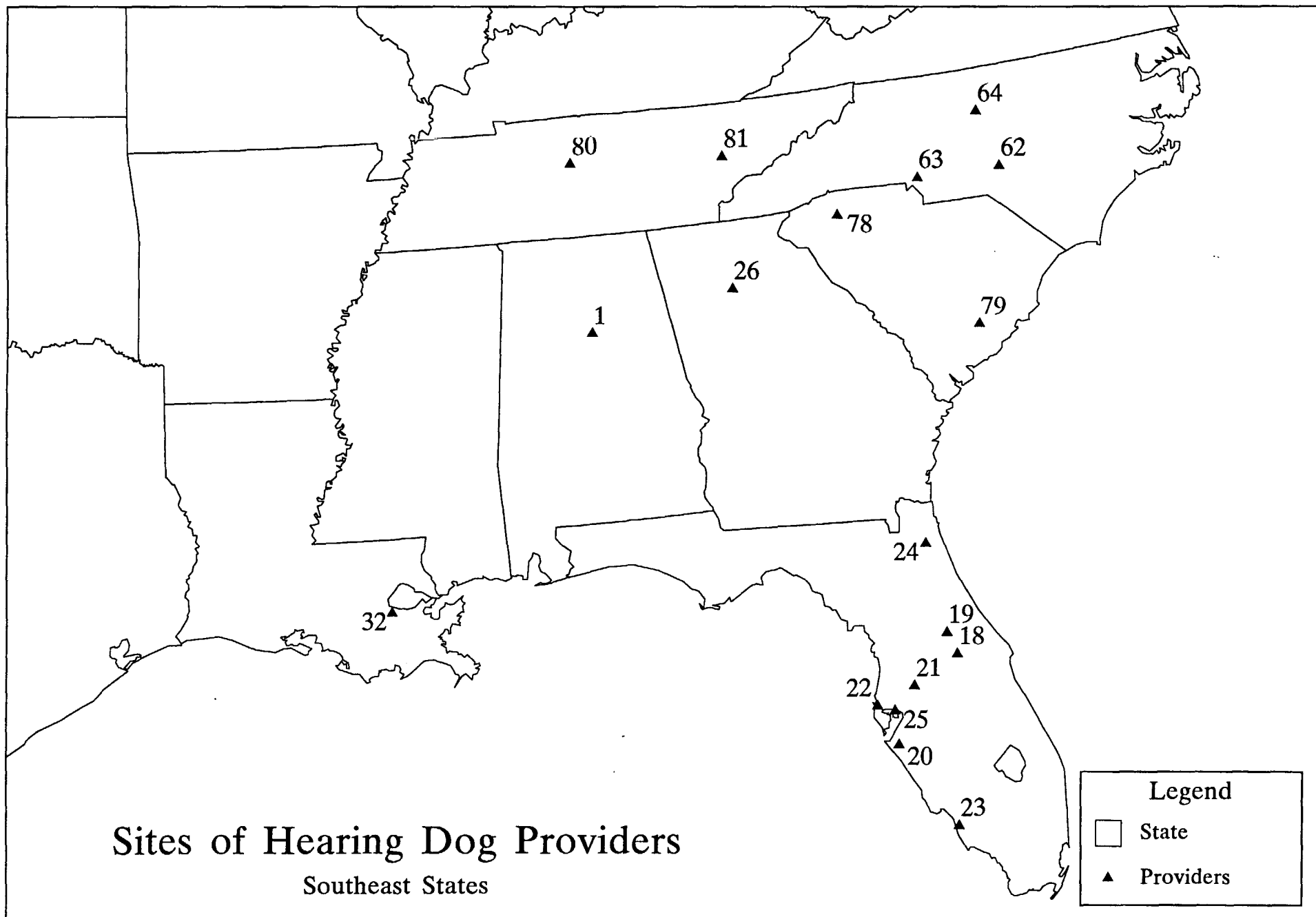
Training at facility for 2-3 weeks  
Cost: \$25 application fee  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: 2 years  
Train for: United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

# Sites of Hearing Dog Providers

Northeast States



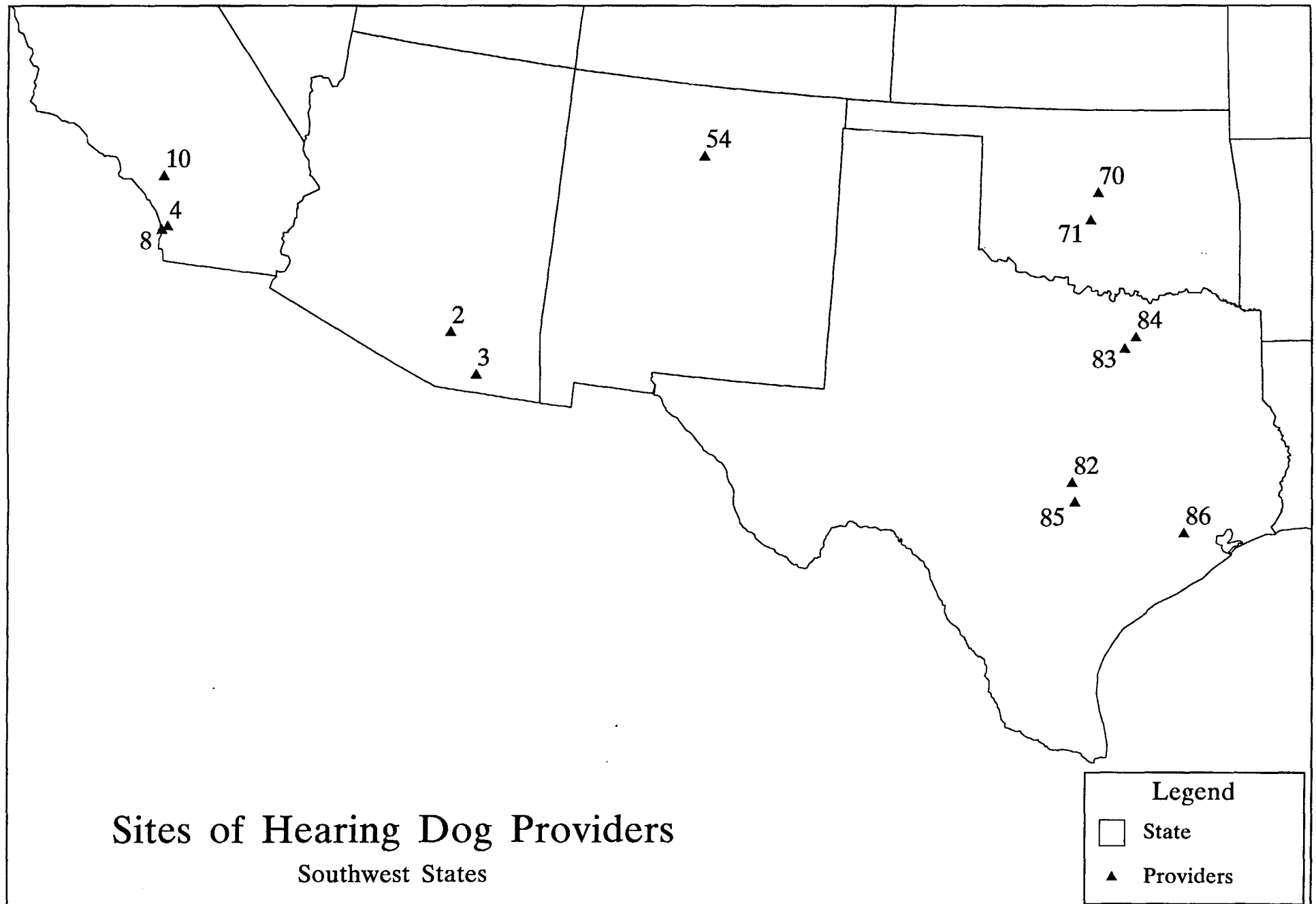


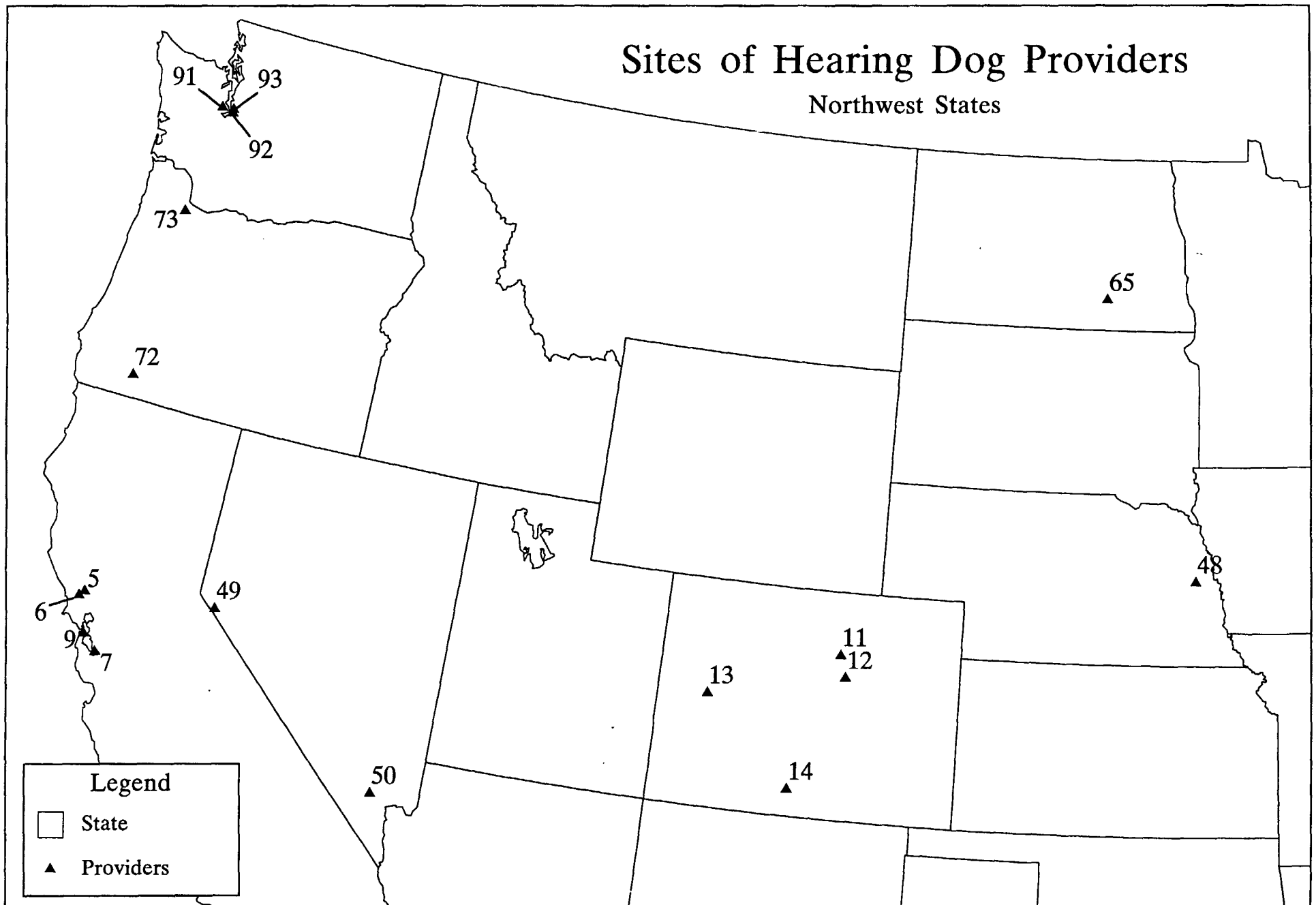


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# Sites of Hearing Dog Providers

Southwest States





### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 5  
National Office  
P.O. Box 446  
4350 Occidental Road  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-0446  
(707) 528-0830  
(707) 528-0146 FAX

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 4

### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 6  
Northwest Regional Training Center  
1215 Sebastopol Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407-6834  
(707) 579-1985 (Voice/TDD)

See Map no. 4

### **Haute Diggity Dogs Companion Animal Partnerships (1993)**

Map no. 7  
6777 Cabernet Avenue  
Newark, CA 94560  
(510) 713-7913  
Contact: Nella Banwarth  
Use Corgis, other breeds, and mixes  
from public donations and rescue  
organizations

Training at facility or in recipient's home  
for 3 weeks or more  
Cost: minimum of \$3000  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: California, especially East Bay-  
South Bay Peninsula

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 8  
Solana Beach, CA  
(619) 755-5624 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Michael Glass-PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **San Francisco SPCA Hearing Dog Program (1978)**

Map no. 9  
2500 16th St.  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
(415) 554-3020 (Voice)  
(415) 554-3022 (TDD)  
Primarily use mixed breeds. All dog used  
are rescued.

Training at facility for 1 week  
Cost: \$20 appl. & \$100 for class  
Minimum age: usually 18  
Waiting period: 6 months- 1 1/2 years  
Train for: California  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Signal Dogs (1994)**

Map no. 10  
P.O. Box 7067  
Riverside, CA 92513  
(909) 688-0101 (Voice)  
(909) 688-7372 (TDD)  
Contact: Karen Detterich  
Primarily use mixed breeds. All dogs  
are rescued

Training at class location or in recipient's  
home for 4 months  
Cost: application fee only  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: 3-4 months  
Train for: southern California

## **COLORADO**

### **International Hearing Dog, Inc. (1979)**

Map no. 11  
5901 East 89th Avenue  
Henderson, CO 80640  
(303) 287-3277 (Voice/TDD))  
(303) 287-3425 FAX  
Use mixed breeds from local animal  
shelters

Training in recipient's home for 5 days  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: usually 18  
Waiting period: 6 months- 1 year  
Train for: United States and Canada

### **Mile High Hearing & Handi Dogs, Inc. (1988)**

Map no. 12  
P.O. Box 833  
Parker, CO 80134  
(303) 288-PAWS (7297)  
Use any breed that qualifies. Dogs are  
rescued from local animal shelters.

Training in recipient's home for 5-7 days  
Cost: free but recipient encouraged to  
find sources of funding  
Minimum age:  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: United States

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 13  
Cedaredge, CO  
(303) 856-3942 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Judy Leonard-PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **Top Dog, Rocky Mountain Region (1994)**

Map no. 14  
1614 W. 6th St.  
Alamosa, CO 81101-2929  
(719) 589-0652  
Contact: Nancy O'Loughlin or Jacque Hart  
Train disabled individuals to train their  
own dogs, which must meet standards  
Severity of disability is not part of the  
admissions criteria

Training at local County Building and/or  
in recipient's home for up to 2 years  
Cost: \$50 donation or time donation  
Minimum age: none fixed  
Waiting period: none- only if between  
classes  
Train for: United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

## **CONNECTICUT**

### **Connecticut K-9 Hearing Dog Training (1995)**

Map no. 15  
239 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
(203) 666-4646 (Voice)  
(203) 666-4648 (TDD)  
Use any breed or mix that qualifies  
Obtain most dogs from animal shelters.

Training at facility for 10-14 weeks  
Cost: nominal fee for lessons &  
maintenance of dog  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: as soon as suitable dog  
is found  
Train for: Connecticut

## **Hearing Ear Dogs of New England, Ltd. (1978)**

Map no. 16  
420 Groton Long Point Road  
Groton, CT 06340  
(203) 446-1576  
Contact: Jim Golub  
Use Golden Retrievers, other breeds, and mixes  
that qualify from breeder donations and  
humane societies

Training at facility or in recipient's home  
for 4-6 months  
Cost: \$8000 w/ sliding scale or find  
sponsors  
Minimum age: case by case. Work with  
children  
Waiting period: short if you live locally  
Train for: prefer locally but will consider  
New England

## **DELAWARE**

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 17  
Dover, DE  
(302) 678-8892 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Linda Roop- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **FLORIDA**

### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 18  
Southeast Regional Director  
P.O. Box 547511  
Orlando, FL 32854-7511  
(407) 834-2555 (Voice)  
(407) 834-3454 (TDD)  
Contact: Patti Conklin- Director

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 4

### **Canine Helpmates, Inc. (1990)**

Map no. 19  
37340 N. County Rd. 44A  
Eustis, FL 32726  
(904) 357-5700  
Contact: Diane Fyfe  
Use Corgis, Border Collies, and other  
herding breeds from breeder donations  
and humane societies

Training at facility and in recipient's  
home for 8 months  
Cost: \$100 application fee  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 6 months  
Train for: Central Florida, Sarasota-  
Bradenton area and Tampa Bay area

### **Florida Dog Guides for the Deaf, Inc. (1984)**

Map no. 20  
P.O. Box 20662  
Bradenton, FL 34203-0662  
(813) 748-8245 (Voice/TDD)  
Use any breed. Obtain most dogs from  
animal shelters

Training in applicant's home for 6-8  
months  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: 17  
Waiting period: 3 months  
Train for: Florida  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Liberty D.O.G.S., Inc. (1992)**

Map no. 21  
P.O. Box 2176  
Zephyrhills, FL 33539  
(813) 782-9127  
Contact: William Wright  
Use any breed from humane societies  
and donations

Training in recipient's home for adequate  
length of time  
Cost: \$5000. Recipient must fundraise  
and find sponsors  
Minimum age: 9-12 years  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: United States, usually locally

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 22  
1930 Candiana Ct.  
Dunedin, FL 33528  
(813) 736-5739  
Contact: Mary Ann DeMeo

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 23  
441 Cypress Way E.  
Naples, FL 33942  
(813) 591-2534  
Contact: Mary Lou Steger

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 24  
Jacksonville, FL  
(904) 268-3398 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Marilyn Whitford- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 25  
Tampa, FL  
(813) 832-6139 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Ellen Winner- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **GEORGIA**

### **Comprehensive Pet Therapy, Inc. (1992)**

Map no. 26  
3375 New Heritage Drive  
Alpharetta, GA 30202  
(404) 442-0280  
(404) 664-0166 FAX must call phone  
number first  
Contact: Mark Spivak  
Use recipient's preferences but  
recommend certain breeds  
Obtain dogs from breeders

Training at facility or in recipient's home  
for 12-18 months  
Cost: \$10,500-\$12,000, paid directly to  
provider  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: depends on funding, no  
wait to get started  
Train for: Atlanta metro area



**ILLINOIS**  
**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 27  
Aurora, IL  
(708) 859-1421 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Joan Payne- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**INDIANA**  
**Access K-9 Co-Workers (1990)**

Map no. 28  
4213 E. 62nd  
Indianapolis, IN 46220  
(317) 257-7777  
Contact: Patti Mullins  
Teach disabled individuals to train their own  
dogs. Dogs can be trained for an individual  
by special arrangement. Will help locate  
appropriate dog if needed. Golden Retrievers and  
German Shepherds are available from  
their own breeding program.

Classes at facility, field work by appt. or  
set times. Special arrangements can be  
made for out-of-state clients. Length  
varies because training is individualized.  
Cost: \$0-\$500 or more for dog, average  
of \$30-\$40 per month for training, &  
\$100-\$150 for equipment  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: none  
Train Internationally

**Midwest Assistance Dogs (1987)**

Map no. 29  
P.O. Box 2941  
South Bend, IN 46680  
(219) 784-3343  
Contact: Susan Busko or Roberta  
Bishop  
Primarily use dogs from humane  
societies

Training at facility for adequate length of  
time. Training is finished in recipient's  
home if live within easy driving distance  
Cost: \$25 appl. & \$100 deposit  
Minimum age: case by case. Generally  
do not provide for children  
Waiting period: 8 months - 1 1/2 years  
Train for: Midwest  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 30  
Greenwood, IN  
(317) 882-8018 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Larry & Karen Blackburn- PAWS  
Regional Representatives

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**KENTUCKY**  
**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 31  
Lexington, KY  
(606) 272-8829 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Rhonda Ferrero- PAWS Program  
Coordinator

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**LOUISIANA**  
**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 32  
Destrehan, LA  
(504) 764-7606 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Mary Ivy- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**MAINE**  
**National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 33  
P.O. Box 482  
Berwick, ME 03901  
(207) 698-4833  
Contact: John Rayne

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

**MARYLAND**  
**Dog Ears, Ltd. (1988)**

Map no. 34  
P.O. Box 688  
Owings Mills, MD 21117  
(410) 655-2858  
Contact: Debbie Winkler or Lee Rudolph  
Also assist senior citizens in choosing a  
pet suited for their situation and provide  
training.  
Also train disabled individuals to train  
their own dogs.  
Use purebreeds and mixes that are  
rescued

Training at facility and/or in recipient's  
home for adequate length of time  
Cost: \$100 & recipient required to  
fundraise  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: Baltimore metropolitan area

### **Fidos for Freedom, Inc. (1987)**

Map no. 35  
P.O. Box 5508  
Laurel, MD 20726  
(410) 880-4178  
Contact: Barbara Karpman  
Use primarily herding and retrieving  
breeds from breeder donations

Training at facility for 180 hours  
Some training in recipient's home  
Cost: \$150  
Minimum age: 16  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: 75 mile radius  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 36  
14238 Briarwood Terrace  
Rockville, MD 20853  
(301) 460-3040  
Contact: Joan Adler

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 37  
58 Belmont Avenue  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 585-5950  
Contact: Jill Montgomery

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 38  
123 Haverhill Rd.  
Topsfield, MA 01983  
Contact: Jennifer Kesner

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 39  
P.O. Box 213  
West Boylston, MA 01583  
(508) 835-3304 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Kathy Foreman- Coordinator  
Use Labs, Golden Retrievers, Poodles, and mixed  
breeds from animal shelters and private  
donations

Training at facility for 2 weeks  
Cost: \$25 filing fee & \$225. Recipients  
also asked to help raise rest of \$5000  
Minimum age: usually 13  
Waiting period: 1-3 years  
Train for: United States, mainly east of  
the Mississippi River  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **National Hearing Dog Center, Inc. (1988)**

Map no. 40  
1116 S. Main Street  
Athol, MA 01331  
(508) 249-9264 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Gertrude Farnum- Director  
Offers an internship training program for individuals who are interested in establishing a hearing dog center in their community  
Use many breeds. Obtain dogs from breeders, individuals, and shelters

Training at facility for 2 weeks, some training in recipient's home  
Cost: total is \$2000. Recipient pays \$250 or more, depending on circumstances  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: depends on finding a dog  
Train for: United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 41  
Rowley, MA  
(508) 948-7980 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Linda Hume- PAWS Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **MICHIGAN**

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 42  
Corporate Office  
1235 100th St. SE  
Byron Center, MI 49315  
(800) 253-PAWS (Voice/TDD)  
Combination Hearing/ServiceDogs also trained  
Hearing dogs are rescued from animal shelters and humane societies. Use any breed.

Hearing dogs are trained at Byron Center, MI facility for approx. 2 months and then training is in recipient's home for 2 more months  
Cost: free but recipients asked to pay what they can afford  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 43  
Lake Orion, MI  
(810) 693-9789 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Lynn Hoekstra- PAWS Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **MINNESOTA**

### **Riley Training Center (1979)**

Map no. 44  
4726 N. 6th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55430  
(612) 522-7372  
Contact: Kathleen Riley-Daniels  
Also work with people who have been hurt  
by dogs and with children who have  
Down's Syndrome  
Primarily use Labs, Chinooks, Goldens,  
Shelties, and other breeds from many  
sources

Training at facility and in recipient's home  
for 7-8 days  
Cost: varies due to needs of recipient  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 6 months  
Train for: 500 mile radius

## **MISSOURI**

### **Canine Specialty Training, Inc. (1994)**

Map no. 45  
19111 E. Truman Road  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 358-9274  
Contact: Susan Bass at work or  
(816) 796-6444 (home)  
Use any breed primarily from shelter  
rescue. Occasionally take donated dogs

Training at facility for 2 weeks  
Cost: \$25 appl. & \$2500-\$5000 for dog  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 6 months - 1 year  
Train for: United States

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 46  
Kansas City, MO  
(816) 741-9648 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Bonna Holladay- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 47  
Warrenton, MO  
(314) 456-4996 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Peggy Nenninger- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**NEBRASKA**  
**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 48  
Fremont, NE  
(402) 727-5990 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Pat Scott- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**NEVADA**  
**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 49  
Gardnerville, NV  
(702) 265-6811 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Michelle Durrant- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 50  
Las Vegas, NV  
(702) 642-8048  
Contact: Barbara Furlano- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

**NEW JERSEY**  
**Canine Hearing Companions, Inc. (1992)**

Map no. 51  
247 E. Forest Grove Rd.  
Vineland, NJ 08360  
(609) 696-0969  
Contact: Debby Gatier  
Use all breeds and mixes from many  
sources

Training at facility and/or in recipient's  
home for 1 week plus follow-up  
Cost: \$200 deposit. Recipient needs to  
find sponsors  
Minimum age: 12  
Waiting period: 1 year  
Train for: New Jersey, Delaware, and  
eastern Pennsylvania

**National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 52  
36 Claire Dr.  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
(908) 526-8274  
Contact: Herb and Barbara Weiss

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 53  
85 Somerset St.  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889  
(201) 534-5410  
Contact: David Johnson II

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **NEW MEXICO**

### **Assistance Dogs of the West (1995)**

Map no. 54  
440 Galisteo St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 986-9748 or  
(310) 573-9069  
Contact: Jill Felice  
Use Goldens, Labs, Great Swiss Mountain  
Dogs and mixes from public donations,  
breed rescues, and animal shelters

Training at facility and/or in recipient's  
home for 2-3 weeks  
Cost: \$150 application fee. Cost of dog  
based on sliding scale.  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: none  
Train for: United States

## **NEW YORK**

### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 55  
Northeast Regional Training Center  
P.O. Box 205  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-0205  
(516) 694-6938 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Paul Mundell- Director

See Map no. 4

### **Canine Helpers for the Handicapped, Inc. (1983)**

Map no. 56  
5699-5705 Ridge Road  
Lockport, NY 14094  
(716) 433-4035 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Beverly Underwood- Executive  
Director  
Use many breeds and mixes from animal  
shelters and breeder donations

Training at facility for 2 weeks plus follow-  
up  
Cost: \$5000  
Minimum age: none fixed  
Waiting period: depends on funding  
Train for: Eastern United States and  
Canada

### **Canine Working Companions, Inc. (1986)**

Map no. 57  
7558 Gorton Lake Road  
Waterville, NY 13480  
(315) 861-7770 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Pat McNamara  
Primarily use mixed breeds from local  
animal shelters

Training at facility for 40 hours  
Cost: \$25 appl. & ask \$150 donation  
Minimum age: out of high school  
Occasionally place with children  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: Central and Upstate New York  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 58  
RD 1, Bain Road  
Argyle, NY 12809  
(518) 638-6453  
Contact: Debra Pardridge St. Jacques

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 59  
33 William Street  
Mt. Vernon, NY 10552  
(914) 664-1417  
Contact: Dianne Aquilino

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 60  
1133 Fifth Avenue #8A  
New York, NY 10128  
(610) 869-4902  
Contact: Polly Robbins

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 61  
Wurtsboro, NY  
(914) 888-4403 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Liz Keller- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42



## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 62  
490 S. May St.  
Southern Pines, NC 28387  
(910) 692-6194  
Contact: Alice Baxter

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 63  
Charlotte, NC  
(704) 347-5785 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Julie Martin-Sunich- PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Teammates Training Center (1989)**

Map no. 64  
5205 Woodlane Drive  
Julian, NC 27283  
(910) 697-7239  
Contact: Laurie Schultz  
Also help individuals in area who already  
have service dogs with in home follow-up  
Use recipient's preferences but recommend  
certain breeds. Obtain dogs from many  
sources

Training in recipient's home for 1 week  
plus follow-up. If recipient lives far away  
he or she can come to facility or pay for  
travel of trainer  
Cost: \$3000 or more  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 6 months or more  
Train for: United States

## **NORTH DAKOTA**

### **Great Plains Assistance Dogs (1990)**

Map no. 65  
P.O. Box 514  
Jud, ND 58454  
(701) 685-2242  
Contact: Mike Goehring- Head Trainer  
Mainly use Labs, Golden and German  
Shepherds from their own breeding program  
and select breeders

Training at facility for 3 weeks  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 3 months- 2 years  
Train Internationally  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

## **OHIO**

### **Assistance Dogs of America, Inc. (1984)**

Map no. 66  
29687 Carnoustie Ct.  
Perrysburg, OH 43551  
(419) 666-8799  
(419) 661-1213 FAX

Contact: Dino Brownson-Exec. Director  
Use terriers and mixed breeds. All dogs  
are rescued

Training at facility for 1 week and then  
follow-up in recipient's home

Cost: \$25 application fee

Minimum age: 13

Waiting period: 18 months

Train for: primarily 300 mile radius of  
Toledo, but accept from United States

\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Canine Companions for Independence (1975)**

Map no. 67  
North Central Regional Training Center  
4989 St. Route 37 East  
Delaware, OH 43015-9682  
(614) 548-4447 (Voice/TDD)  
(614) 363-0555 FAX  
Contact: Jim Cunningham- Director

See Map no. 4

### **Lions Hearing Dogs, Inc. (1981)**

Map no. 68  
4623 Pleasant Chapel  
Newark, OH 43055  
(614) 763-4282 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Cathy Sevin Nagaich  
Use any breed, mostly mixes from local  
humane societies

Training in recipient's home for 6-12  
months

Cost: free

Minimum age: case by case

Waiting period: short

Train for: Ohio, will consider surrounding  
states

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 69  
Medina, OH  
(216) 722-1885 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Valerie Halliwell- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center

See Map no. 42

## **OKLAHOMA**

### **Dog Ears, Companion Dogs for the Hearing Impaired (1988)**

Map no. 70  
4200 E. Britton Road  
Oklahoma City, OK 73131  
(405) 478-2303 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Melanie Blackburn- Director  
Use any breed. Obtain dogs from breeder  
donations and shelters

Training at facility for 2 weeks when  
possible or in recipient's home  
Cost: free  
Minimum age: none fixed  
Waiting period: 3 months- 1 year or more  
Train for: Oklahoma preferred

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 71  
Blanchard, OK  
(405) 224-7715 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Barb Lewis- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **OREGON**

### **Dogs for the Deaf, Inc. (1977)**

Map no. 72  
10175 Wheeler Rd.  
Central Point, OR 97502  
(503) 826-9220 (Voice/TDD)  
(503) 826-6696 FAX  
Usually use mixed breeds from humane  
societies

Training in recipient's home for 1 week  
Cost: \$100 deposit + dog supplies  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: up to 1 1/2 years  
Train for: United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 73  
Oregon City, OR  
(800) 253-PAWS (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Geoffrey Reynolds- PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 74  
1410 Barnsdale St.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
(412) 421-6713  
Contact: Sandra Breman

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 75  
Pittsburgh, PA  
(412) 421-7127 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Myra Judd- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **RHODE ISLAND**

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 76  
116 Spicebush Trail  
Narragansett, RI 02882  
(401) 789-3218  
Contact: Joan Karakas

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 77  
P.O. Box 1222  
Pawtucket, RI 02862  
(401) 725-1966  
Contact: Amy Rafferty

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **Dogs for the Disabled (1990)**

Map no. 78  
P.O. Box 25628  
Greenville, SC 29618  
(803) 322-9879  
(803) 242-5628 FAX  
Contact: D.H. Dannheisser- Executive  
Director  
Use Labs, Goldens, German Shepherds,  
and other breeds primarily from humane  
societies

Dog placed with client to finish last  
several weeks of training at facility  
and/or in recipient's home  
Cost: currently \$3200  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: 5-7 months  
Train for: southeastern United States  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 79  
304 Huntington Rd.  
Summerville, SC 29483  
(803) 871-8492  
Contact: Betty Jane Brescia

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **TENNESSEE**

### **K-9 Kandystripers (1993)**

Map no. 80  
P.O. Box 2185  
Brentwood, TN 37024-2185  
(615) 373-4006  
Contact: Brenda Bass  
Primarily use mixed breeds from animal  
shelters

Training at facility for one day plus  
follow-up  
Cost: \$25 application fee  
Minimum age: do not accept children  
Waiting period: 0-6 months  
Train for: prefer locally

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 81  
Knoxville, TN  
(615) 675-5230 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Becky Bichlmeir- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

## **TEXAS**

### **Canine Academy (1990)**

Map no. 82  
13420 Cedar Lime Road  
Leander, TX 78641  
(512) 267-2275  
(512) 267-7971 FAX  
Contact: Wayne Booth  
Use recipient's preferences. Dogs  
obtained from many sources

Training at facility and/or recipient's home  
for 4-5 days  
Cost: \$4500  
Minimum age: none fixed  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: primarily Texas but will consider  
applications from U.S.  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 83  
3050 Timberview Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75229  
Contact: Cynthia Parker-Wade

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 84  
Lucas, TX  
(214) 422-2973 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Nancy King Montange- PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, Inc. (1988)**

Map no. 85  
4803 Rutherglen  
Austin, TX 78749  
(512) 891-9090  
Contact: Sheri Henderson  
Use many breeds and mixes. Selection  
based on temperament and health, not  
breed.

Training at facility for 1 day and then  
in recipient's home for 8 weeks  
Cost: \$20 appl.  
Minimum age: 18  
Waiting period: 6 months  
Train for: Texas  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Texas Hearing and Service Dogs, Inc. (1988)**

Map no. 86  
6831 Puerta Vista  
Houston, TX 77083  
(713) 530-1522  
See map no. 85

## **VERMONT**

### **National Education of Assistance Dog Services, Inc. (1976)**

Map no. 87  
160 Main St. #1  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 773-8769  
Contact: Mary Jeanne Bouchard

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 39

## **VIRGINIA**

### **Blue Ridge Assistance Dogs (1995)**

Map no. 88  
11215 Dumfries Road  
Manassas, VA 22111  
(703) 368-4688  
Contact: Lydia Wade-Barlow  
Also provide Specialty Dogs  
Use small breeds from animal shelters  
and breed rescues

Training at facility for 2 weeks or more  
Cost: undetermined at this time  
Minimum age: case by case  
Waiting period: varies  
Train for: Virginia and Maryland

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 89  
Chesapeake, VA  
(804) 482-8329 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Sharon Hildebrand- PAWS  
Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Virginia Canines for Independence (1993)**

Map no. 90	Training in recipient's home for
P.O. Box 11441	2-6 months
Richmond, VA 23230	Cost: free
(804) 288-DOGS	Minimum age: none fixed
Contact: William Jackson	Waiting period: 1-2 years
Use variety of breeds from animal shelters	Train for: Virginia
and public donations	

## **WASHINGTON**

### **Kinetic Designs Canine Education (1993)**

Map no. 91	Training at facility for 50-150 hours
14321 Anatevka Lane SE	Cost for Signal Dog with protection skills:
Olalla, WA 98359	\$15,560
(206) 857-7943	Cost for Signal Dog without protection
(206) 857-2640 FAX	skills: \$9,850
Contact: Colleen Edwards- Administrator	Cost for Guide/Signal Dog or Service/
Training Center:	Signal Dog: \$23,710
5007 Nelson Rd. SE	Minimum age: case by case
Olalla, WA 98359	Waiting period: 2-6 months if have
phone and FAX same as above	funding
Use Labs, German Shepherds, and	Train Internationally
other breeds that qualify. Have their own	
breeding program	
Obtains dogs from U.S., Czechoslovakia,	
and Hungary	

### **Paws-Abilities (1991)**

Map no. 92	Training at facility for 1-2 years
914 Industry Drive	Cost: \$30 per month
Tukwila, WA 98188	Minimum age: 12, younger if have
(206) 277-3794	guardian
Contact: Dana Babb	Waiting period: none
Teach disabled persons to train their own	Train for: western Washington
dogs or will help locate dog for placement	

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 93	This is not a training center
Kent, WA	See Map no. 42
(206) 824-5456 (Voice/TDD)	
Contact: Judy Harmon- PAWS Regional	
Representative	

## **WISCONSIN**

**Okada (1986)**

Map no. 94  
W5634 Stearns Road  
Fontana, WI 53125  
(414) 275-5226 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Walt or Pat Marsh  
Also trains dogs for people who have  
Alzheimer's Disease  
Use mixed breeds from animal shelters

Training at facility for 2 weeks  
Cost: \$50 appl. & recipient must find  
funding for \$3500  
Minimum age: out of high school (or  
close)  
Waiting period: 8-12 months  
Train for: Wisconsin and surrounding  
states  
\*Assistance Dogs International member

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 95  
Eagle River, WI  
(715) 479-9729  
Contact: Tarilyn Stoeber-Anderson  
PAWS Regional Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42

### **Paws With a Cause (1979)**

Map no. 96  
Oshkosh, WI  
(414) 235-3237 (Voice/TDD)  
Contact: Cindy Siekierke- PAWS Regional  
Representative

This is not a training center  
See Map no. 42



## Service Dogs- an Overview

Service dogs are trained for a multitude of mobility impairments, such as muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and congenital abnormalities. Service dogs can also assist those who are mobility impaired due to other reasons, such as accidents. Service dogs can also be trained for individuals with social phobias, such as agoraphobia, and give individuals the confidence they need to venture out in public on their own. Some believe that seizure alert dogs fall into the service dog category, though we have included them in another section of the book because it is a specialized type of trained dog.

Service dogs can do numerous things for their owners, depending on individual needs. They can pick up dropped articles, pull wheelchairs, assist walkers, turn lights on and off, open and close doors, carry school books, pull their owners out of bed, and an almost endless list of other important tasks. Service dogs are granted legal access under the American With Disabilities Act and may accompany their owners everywhere they go.

Many provider organizations will train for disabilities in addition to those described above. For example, some providers will train a service dog for a person who also has a hearing loss or a mental impairment. If the provider will consider applicants with and accommodate for additional disabilities it will be noted in the **Index of Providers** on page 110.

The breeds used for service dogs are generally the larger working and sporting breeds. Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, and German Shepherds are the most common breeds used. Some providers rescue their dogs from animal shelters or through breed rescues. However, many providing organizations obtain their puppies through their own breeding program or from breeders or donations, and place them in volunteer puppy homes for the first year or more. Foster families are responsible for loving, socializing, giving basic training, and exposing the puppy to a wide range of experiences. The dogs then return to the provider's facility for many months of intense training as a service dog. Some providing organizations do recipient/dog team training in the recipient's home, while some do this training at their own facility. Some providers do things differently, and some even train disabled individuals to train their own dogs to be service dogs.

Though there are many methods used by providers, their goal is the same. They strive to provide mobility impaired or otherwise qualified individuals with service dogs that match their needs and personalities. Specialized training is given depending on an individual's needs, and follow-up care is provided. Any person desiring a service dog should find the providing organization that is best for him or her by considering all of the options that are available.